Top students figure it out: AU's math competition
10/26/04

Approximately 300 students from high schools in Western New York and Pennsylvania can add it up: a top performance in the 36th annual Nevins High School Mathematics Competition equals a scholarship to Alfred University. The annual competition, hosted by the AU Division of Mathematics and Computer Science, will be held Nov. 5 on the Alfred University campus. Students will tackle a set of original and challenging math problems. The top five individual scorers receive cash prizes and the number one scorer also receives a $1,000 scholarship to AU. The competition is named in honor of the late W. Varick Nevins, a professor of mathematics at Alfred from 1937 to 1967. It consists of 30 multiple-choice problems which the students have 75 minutes to complete. And just to test your math prowess, here's one of last year's questions:Let $\{x\}$ denote the non-negative difference between real number x and its nearest integer neighbor. (For example, $\{5.7\} = 0.3$.) Compute the sum of $\{n/5\}$ from n =1 to 20.A. 1.2 B. 3.6 C. 4 D. 4.8 E. 24